

# EDUC 1300 LEARNING FRAMEWORKS

## CAREER RESEARCH PAPER BY VALORIE GEHMAN, MS

### OVERVIEW

The career paper is a research document covering several areas of interest as they pertain to the vocation of your choice. This project is designed to help you plan and navigate a career for which you will be well-suited and which will meet your financial needs. Enjoy your research and time of discovery.

Objectives: to fully explore the most important aspects of a career while participating in research activities and strengthening writing techniques, to initiate students in American Psychological Association (APA) style formatting, and to practice structuring a Word document.

The finished research paper should be placed in a report folder and handed in on the due date.

Use the \_\_\_ space provided to check off each area that you have completed.

\_\_\_ Research career information from the five helpful sources listed within the instructions. **You may only use the sources listed. Please do not use other sources. You are required to have 5 sources.**

\_\_\_ Adhere to APA formatting style for your paper. Use the directions provided as well as Purdue OWL, APA Formatting and Style Guide. YouTube videos "APA Sample Paper" by Steven Wilder and "How to Format Your Essay in APA Style" by Teresa Bolstad are very helpful!

\_\_\_ Complete: a title page, three pages or more of written work with in-text citations, & a reference page.  
1 Title page +3 pages of written work +1 reference page =5 total pages

\_\_\_ Complete a first and a final draft. Take the first draft to the Writing Center for further comments and proof-reading and ask them to sign the paper. Rewrite, make corrections, and complete the final draft.

\_\_\_ On the due date, include the following items in a report cover & turn them in

\_\_\_ Typefocus Report included (25 points).

\_\_\_ First draft of Career Research Paper **proof-read** and **signed by tutor** at the Writing Center (25 points).

\_\_\_ Final draft of the Career Research Paper (100 points).

### SUGGESTED WORK SCHEDULE

\_\_\_1. Read through all the instructions first to see how the paper fits together.

\_\_\_2. Do the research and take notes. This will start the ideas flowing.

\_\_\_3. Write the first draft.

\_\_\_4. Work on the reference page then the in-text citations.

\_\_\_5. Format the first draft (title page, body of paper, reference page) in APA style.

\_\_\_6. Check the first draft for clarity, spelling, punctuations, etc. Take the copy to the Writing Center for further comments & proof-reading and ask them to sign the paper. Rewrite, make corrections, and complete the final draft.

\_\_\_7. In a report cover place: the TypeFocus report, first draft, and final draft. Hand these in on the due date.

## CAREER RESEARCH PAPER: WRITING REQUIREMENTS

A research paper is like an expanded essay; it builds upon what you already know and is strengthened by including information from experts. A research paper in APA style has a title page, an abstract, an introduction, a body, a conclusion, and a reference page. (You are NOT REQUIRED to do an abstract.)

In a well-developed paper, such as a research paper, the central/main idea of the paper is called the **thesis**.  
The central/main idea of this paper? Career Development.  
Now you will write about your main idea/thesis in an introduction.

### **Introductory Remarks: The career I have chosen and why.**

The **introduction** conveys a good deal of information to your readers. An introduction captures the audience's attention, lets them know what your main idea is, why it is important, and how you plan to proceed with your discussion. A concise, engaging, and well-written introduction will cause the readers to want to read the rest of your paper.

An introduction includes a **thesis statement**. The thesis statement is a sentence that will announce the thesis (main idea) of your paper and will direct the reader toward the topics you plan to discuss in the body of your paper. The thesis statement can be located in the beginning, the middle, or at the end of your introduction. It will tie your opening remarks to the body of the paper.

Use the empty space provided to write your notes and/or an outline.

\_\_ Use a **hook** in order to capture the reader's attention. You can use an interesting personal story, inspiring quote, a thought-provoking rhetorical question, meaningful facts, or an intriguing example to catch the reader's interest.

\_\_ In the introduction tell what career you have chosen & how you first became interested in this career. (This "interesting story" could function as the hook.)

\_\_ Examine the information you learned in TypeFocus about your personality and skills. How does your career choice match with your personality type and skill set?

\_\_ Remember to include a thesis statement to lead into the discussion of your career choice. The thesis statement can be located in the beginning, the middle, or at the end of your introduction

\_\_ Complete the paragraph's ideas and transition into the next paragraph.

\_\_ Use in-text citation to cite your source, TypeFocus.

## Body: What will the work be like?

The **body** of a research paper discusses the thesis (career development) by describing it in terms of *who, what, when, where, why, and how*. For example: What kind of work will you be doing? Where will you work? How much is the salary? Discuss each of these **topics** in a separate paragraph using a **topic sentence**: a sentence that will state the topic of your paragraph and control the direction the paragraph takes.

Transition from one topic to the other by using **transition words**: *also, next, first, secondly, in addition to, therefore, etc.* Experienced writers sometimes flow from topic to topic by managing their information and may not need transition words.

Use only the sources which are listed for your research. ***You may not use other sources.*** Make sure the body covers the following topics **in this order**:

\_\_ Describe the career. What kind of work would you be doing? What are the responsibilities? Use: Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://bls.gov/ooh/>

\_\_ What is the work environment? Office? Outdoors? High stress? Is there much travel? Etc. Use: Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://bls.gov/ooh/>

\_\_ What salary can you expect? What do the employees in the median range make? The low range? The high range for salary? Use: Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://bls.gov/ooh/>

\_\_ What is the job outlook? How much is employment expected to grow? Will there be a job for you when you graduate? Use: Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://bls.gov/ooh/>

\_\_ Determine the annual salary needed to maintain a desired standard of living in Houston. Will the salary you expect cover the lifestyle you desire? Is there money for the necessities? For savings? Use: Texas Reality Check <http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/> )

\_\_ Use in-text citations to cite the sources.

## Concluding Remarks: How will this career affect areas of my life?

Complete the paper by synthesizing what you have learned. The **conclusion** allows you to have the final say on issues, to summarize your thoughts, and to demonstrate the importance of your ideas. Give your reader something to take away that will help them appreciate your topic and what the future may hold if you choose this career. Discuss the following topics (**in the order listed**) in your conclusion:

\_\_Synthesize the career information you've researched to determine if you will be able to live a comfortable lifestyle in Houston with your proposed salary. Go to: CNN Money Cost of Living Calculator @ <http://money.cnn.com/calculator/pf/cost-of-living/>

\_\_\_Compare the cost of living in Houston to other cities. You may compare the cost to a city you plan to move to after you've completed school or any other city you are interested in. Will you be able to live a comfortable lifestyle in Houston with the proposed salary? How does the cost of living in Houston compare to other cities? Go to: CNN Money Cost of Living Calculator @ <http://money.cnn.com/calculator/pf/cost-of-living/> to gather the data.

\_\_Go to: <http://Volunteermatch.org> to write about 3 local volunteer organizations or charities in Houston and explain how you could use the skills you hope to acquire in your career to serve the community. Reflect on how the training for your career could be beneficial to the 3 organizations or charities you investigated.

\_\_Analyze the information. Considering all that you have learned, do you still want to pursue this career and why? If there are obstacles, how will you overcome them?

\_\_Use in-text citations to cite the sources.

NO COPY/PASTE    NO VIDEOS    NO PLAGARISM

NO QUOTATIONS from the research  
(You may use a quotation for the hook.)

**Rewrite the researched material in your own words!**